

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Royal Gorge Field Office

3028 E. Main

Cañon City, CO 81212

OFFICE: Royal Gorge Field Office

PROJECT NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F02-2014-041 DN

CASEFILE: Grazing Record # 0505730 (Sanders & Martin)
Grazing Record# 0504940 (Wayne Miller)

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Range – Grazing Lease Transfer and Renewal for Buffalo Peaks Allotment #05929

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Park County, 6th Principal Meridian

<u>Allotment</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>	<u>Public Acres</u>
Buffalo Peaks	T10S, R75W, Sec 15	40

APPLICANT:
Wayne Miller

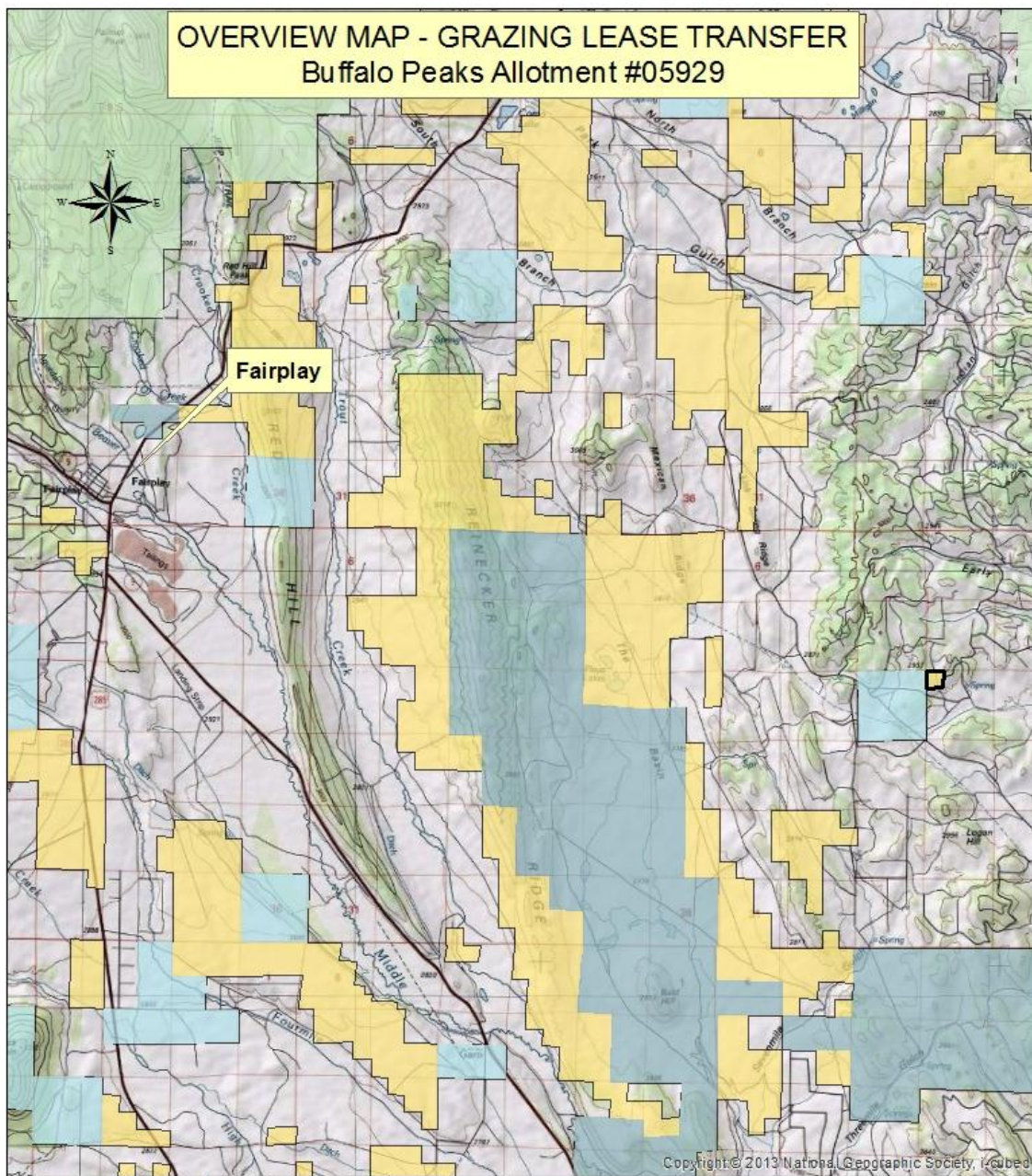
A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The proposed action is to transfer the authorization to graze livestock on public lands included in the Buffalo Peaks Allotment. The new lease/permit will expire after ten years. **Grazing use on the allotment will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates and times; authorized levels of use; or terms and conditions.**

The base property for the Buffalo Peaks Allotment is owned by Michael T. Sanders and Barbara J. Martin. Wayne Miller has leased the base property and has applied for the grazing lease for public land included in the Buffalo Peaks Allotment. The new lease will expire in ten years (2/28/2024).

The allotment has undergone internal interdisciplinary team review through Public Land Health Assessments conducted in 2006. The allotment is currently meeting public land health standards. In addition, the allotment was analyzed for permit renewal under BLM-CO-200-2007-0058 EA, conducted in September, 2007.

OVERVIEW MAP - GRAZING LEASE TRANSFER Buffalo Peaks Allotment #05929



Legend

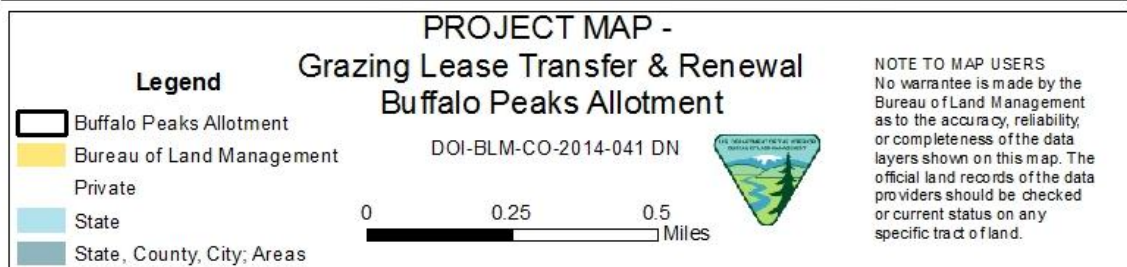
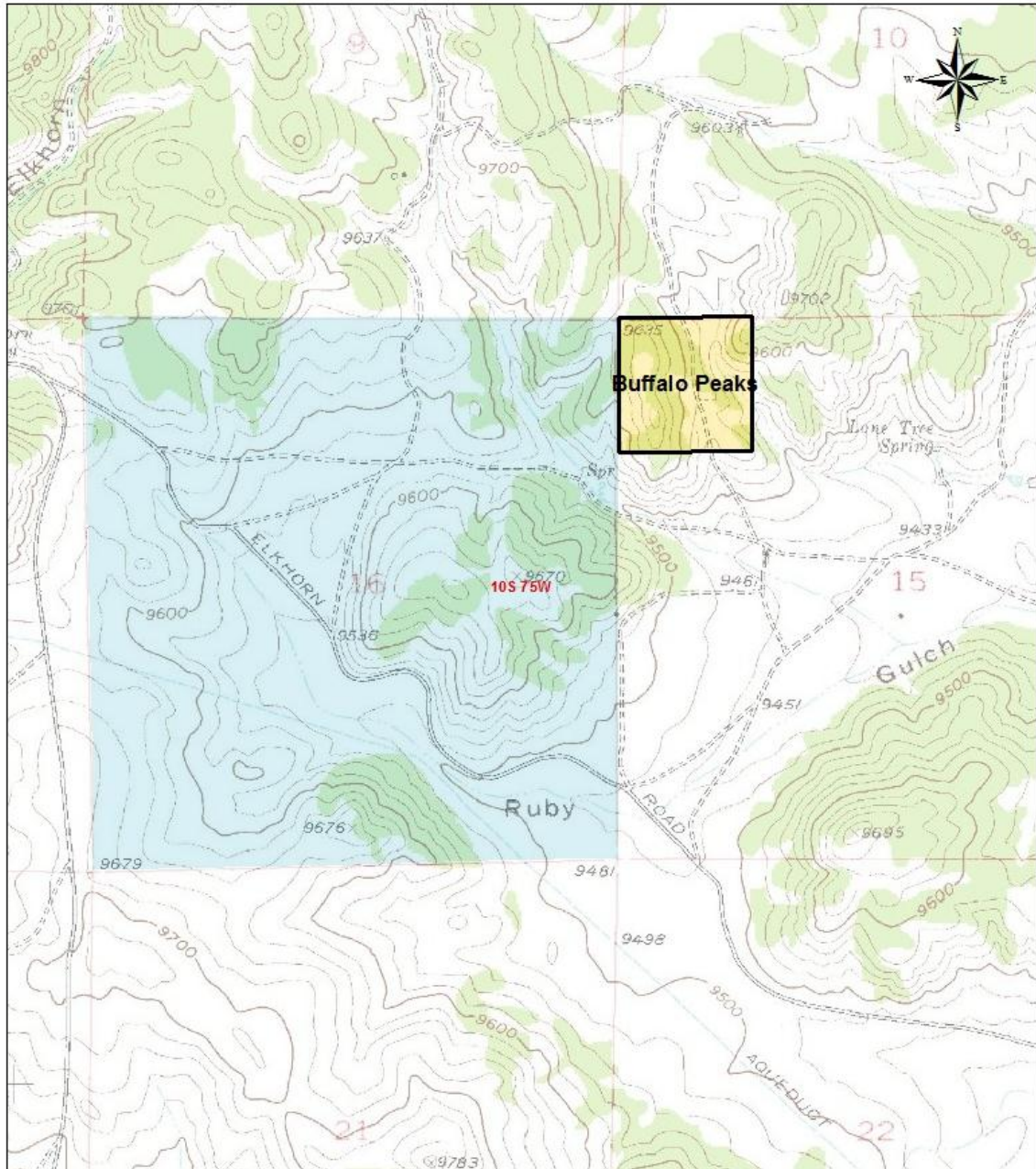
- Buffalo Peaks Allotment
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State
- State, County, City; Areas
- US Forest Service

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0 2.5 5 Miles



NOTE TO MAP USERS
No warrantee is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data layers shown on this map. The official land records of the data providers should be checked or current status on any specific tract of land.



B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan	Date Approved 05/13/1996
Other Document Final Livestock Grazing EIS	Date Approved 1995

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions: 4-2, 4-4, C-30, & C-44

Decision Language:

- 4-2: Season of use and stocking rates will continue based on the Grazing EIS and vegetation monitoring.
- 4-4: Grazing is authorized on 49 allotments.
- C-30: Base livestock grazing management on the 1981 Royal Gorge Area Grazing Environmental Impact Statement. Continue to use allotment management plans (AMPs) on an interim basis until replaced with IAPs.
- C-44: On single pasture allotments with season long spring/summer grazing, utilization will be held to the 40 to 60 percent range on forage species in lieu of a rest standard. This requirement will be on high elevation allotments where deferment or dormant season use is impractical because of deep snow and fencing the allotment into smaller units is uneconomical.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

BLM-CO-200-2007-0058 EA Term Grazing Lease Renewal
Date Approved: September 18, 2007.

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

Public Land Health Assessment 2006
Date Approved: September, 2006

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The Proposed Action is substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA documents. Grazing use on the allotments will remain as previously scheduled. There will be no changes in livestock numbers; authorized grazing dates and times; authorized levels of use; or terms and conditions.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes. The RMP/EIS and EA considered a range of alternatives. The existing EA for permit renewal was conducted in 2007 and continues to be appropriate for current conditions. The EA included a proposed action alternative, a no action alternative, and a no grazing alternative that were analyzed in the document. The proposed action is described in this document. The no action alternative was analyzed as the “current management” of the allotments in the previous EA with no changes in terms and conditions. The no grazing alternative was analyzed as removal of livestock grazing from the allotment. No new environmental conditions or change in resource values have arisen that would invalidate those alternatives analyzed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes. The previous information and circumstances and analysis are still valid in light of the 2006 Health Assessment, and no new issues concerning grazing have arisen on this allotment. Also, the EA was recently completed.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes. The impacts remain unchanged. Those impacts, including cumulative impacts, normally associated with livestock grazing are mitigated through monitoring of land health standards.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes. Extensive scoping and public involvement occurred in the RMP/EIS. Also, scoping occurred during the recent permit renewal.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW			
NAME	TITLE	AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	Initials/date
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 4/1/2014
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	-----
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	CC, 3/31/2014
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 04/29/2014
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 4/2/14
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	-----
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 4/14/2014
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 3/31/2014
Ty Webb	Prescribed Fire Specialist	Air Quality	TW, 4/1/2014
Jeff Covington	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	JC, 3/31/14
Kalem Lenard	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	KL, 3/31/2014
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	N/A
Ken Reed	Forester	Forestry	KR, 4/3/14
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MDT 4/23/14
Greg Valladares	Realty Specialist	Realty	GDV 05/07/2014
Pat Seekins	Fire Management Officer	Fire Management	PS, 4/1/2014
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	N/A

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see report CR-RG-14-113 (N)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no records of any federally listed or BLM sensitive species within or near the project area. The Proposed Action will not result in impacts to TES species.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics: This action would not affect lands that were determined to possess wilderness characteristics.

MITIGATION:

CONCLUSION

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Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF PROJECT LEAD: /s/ Christine Cloninger

SIGNATURE OF NEPA COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

SIGNATURE OF NEPA SUPERVISOR: Melissa K.S. Garcia

SIGNATURE OF THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: /s/ Melissa K. S. Garcia
for Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE: 5/12/14

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.